

## BOARDING HOUSE

As already stated the boarding house was built almost as soon as the first bridge was erected. It was built by Frederick William Pennington, and the front room used as a school room from 1901 until the school was built in 1909. It has in turn been owned by Charlie Dewar who installed a billiard table in the old school room, Mr Watson, Mr Barnett, Mr Hanover and Mr Watkins. It is now derelict and presently owned by Robert Hutton.

F W Pennington was the parent or guardian of 13 children enrolled at the Purangi School between 12.9.1901 and 19.11.1907, so it seems as if all five bedrooms in the boarding house were put to good use, and the children only had to cross the corridor to attend school.

George Hanover and his wife Blanche (nee Lichtwark) ran the boarding house, store and coach between 1914-1918. They must have led a very busy life. Their son Wally who was born in the boarding house has in his possession the store ledger book which details accounts between 1914-1918. Apart from detailing purchases by account holders, the reader can gain an insight into the lives of some families. Often accounts at the store were settled by means other than cash or cheque, eg cows, pigs, firewood, drilling, butter, labour, etc. The charge for telephone calls was sixpence (5 cents) and the price charged for carrying messages was two shillings and sixpence (25c). All through the accounts, parcels are charged at 3d each; we presume that is the delivery or carrying charge. Tea cost 1/6 (15 cents), bed 1/6, breakfast 1/6 and lunch 1/6.

The shop carried a very comprehensive range of goods. In 1915 this would have been a typical account for the month:

Cup and saucer 3/9, butter 1/-, oil 2/4, soda 3d, pins 4d, tea 2/-, lace and ribbon 3/8, wool 2/4, candles 8d, phone 6d, lace 2/-, phone 6d, soap 1/-, biscuits 2/-, lace 1/-, cotton 2d, candles 8d, bisc 10d, lace 1/0, cigs 6d, bread 11d, cigs 1/-, onions 1/- meat 1/6, butter 1/6, sago 9d, tea 2/-, tea 2/-, soap 1/-, blue 6d, biscuits 2/-, jam 1/-, sugar 1/- bread 11d, soda 1/-, whiting 1/-, biscuits 1/-, zebra 6d, jam 6d, cornflour 8d, biscuits 2/-, butter 1/-, tongues 1/6, sago 1/-, meat 1/6, onions 6d, phone 6d, matches 1/-, candles 8d, milk 7d, cheese 2/6, nails 4d, milk 7d, sugar 12/6, news 1/- parcel 3d. Cash lent 50/- (£2.10.0 = \$5) Total for month £18.1.10.

You could buy gelignite for 10/-, tobacco 1/-, lifebuoy soap 8d, cocoa 1/2, elastic 5d, egg powder 7d, toothpowder 6d, currants 1/6, caustic 1/- mustard 1/-, nibs 2d, envelopes 4d, nugget 6d, oats 1/9, camphor 6d, kerosene 1/6, rice 1/-, prunes 2/-, painkiller 1/6, ink 6d, pants 12/-, rope 1/-, pollard 7/- pipe 1/6, fowls 3/-, pig rings, 1/2 ton of coal 9/3, camp oven 6/6 etc.

A lot of medicine was sold to some people, others preferred lollies, and still others cigarettes and tobacco. A small amount of beer and wine was charged out as well.

When Mr Harry Watkins was the storekeeper he used to operate a manual petrol pump alongside the boarding house in the late 1930s, early 1940s. Drums of petrol were stored in a shed and an old-fashioned hand pump bowser with a glass indicator was used to measure fuel into customers' vehicles.